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[136 cont.]

The marksmanship of the natives is described as very good. Labillardière mentions a shot in the head at more than 45 meters (9).

9. Labillardière, p. 254. Joest in Baessler, p. 390 (Tagebuch, p. 48). F. de Tolna, p. 285. The force of the blow is apparent from Carteret's statement (p. 359) that an arrow penetrated the side of the boat and wounded a man sitting in the boat. Cf. also the Spanish reports that the arrows pierced the Spanish shields (Dalrymple, p. 85).

The [137] [Fig. 62 appears here] [138] technique of shooting, according to Joest, is as follows: the arrow is held to the left of the bow with the index finger, and the bowstring is drawn with the index finger and the middle finger, sometimes also with the fourth finger if it is very stiff (1). For protection against the

1. Joest in Baessler, p. 390.

very sharp impact of the recoiling bowstring, all the men on Ndeni wrap the left wrist with bark cloth or a spiral of rattan (2).

2. Joest in Baessler, p. 390 (and Tagebuch, p. 51). Dalrymple, p. 78.

Mendana mentions the use of stones as weapons, but apparently without the use of a sling (3).

3. Dalrymple, pp. 79, 85. Thilenius, Ethnogr. Ergebn. aus Melanesien, I, p. 54, mentions the sling as the sole weapon on Utupua.

/200 cont./

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arrow shafts were undecorated. -- The Reef Islanders obtain their arrows from Nitendi (Girieud and Herrenschmidt, p. 105), where they are made on the west coast (Coombe, p. 187).]

to find any specimens in which the entire point is made of bone, as in the specimen, No. 12, illustrated there (7). While the

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7. [O'Ferrall, section "A 'Club-House'" = Coombe, p. 190 (together with Ethn., I, p. 134), confirms that bone points were made from disinterred human bones. According to the same author, the points are are smeared with red to transmit "malete" to them.]

origin of the ordinary decorations on the wooden intermediate section [Ethn., I, p. 137, Fig. 62, Nos. 12-42; AfA, new series, VIII, p. 310, Figs. 3-14] is obviously from barbed hooks, the meaning of the /201/ peculiar carving [occurring on a certain type] just below the point [Ethn., I, Fig. 62, Nos. 17-28; AfA, new series, VIII, Figs. 7, 8, 10, 13] is unclear. /Fig. 47 appears here./ Perhaps it can be traced back to the zigzag pattern of a lashing such as is often found on New Hebrides arrows and would in this case be imitated in wood, like the barbed hooks. One side of the arrow, however, is always smooth at this place, perhaps so that the arrow will slide easily along the bow.

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The marksmanship of the natives does not seem to be outstanding. At 25 meters, six archers were able to hit the rib of a palm leaf stuck in the ground one meter high only once in 20 shots. /Fig. 48 appears here./ They shoot with extraordinary force, however; the arrows almost penetrate the trunk of a coconut palm, and the maximal range is about 200 meters.